



Looking for ideas on how to spend a lazy summer day or warm evening close to home? Consider these suggestions:

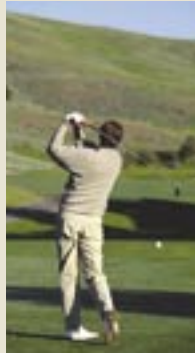
- Spend a night under the stars at Coors Amphitheater. Check out the latest concert schedule for the 2003 season at www.hob.com or (619) 671-3600.
- Make waves at Knott's Soak City U.S.A with over 20 water rides. Call for more information at (619) 661-7373.

Exploring the Season

• Drop in for an up-close and personal visit with shorebirds, raptors, sharks, jelly fish and other wildlife residents of the coastal tidelands at the Chula Vista Nature Center.

• Get ready for the 2004 Olympic games in Athens, Greece right here at home. Schedule a tour of the U.S. Olympic Committee's only warm-weather training center at www.usolympicteam.com or (619) 656-1500.

• Tee off or take a lesson at one of Chula Vista's three public golf courses: The Auld Course (619) 482-4666, Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course (619) 479-4141, and EastLake Golf Course (619) 482-5757.



• Stock up on fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers at a Farmer's Market in two Chula Vista locations: Thursdays in downtown Chula Vista at Third Ave. & Center St. from 3 - 6 p.m. and Fridays at EastLake Elementary School, 1955 Hillside Dr. from 4 - 7 p.m.

• Pick up a good book to read at the beach at any of Chula Vista's three branch libraries.

• Kids need a swimming lesson? Want to beat the heat for an afternoon? Cool off at a city pool—Parkway or Loma Verde.

• Enjoy the breeze and picnic along the bayfront with views of Point Loma and downtown San Diego.

Summer is here...enjoy it in Chula Vista! ■

Dive into Summer with Fireworks, Music and More

Music in the Park: A free public concert series, which begins on June 15 and continues until Sept. 6. Concert schedule will include Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. For more scheduling information, please call City of Chula Vista (619) 585-5627 and The EastLake Company (619) 421-3111.

July 4th Fireworks: Celebrate July 4th with a



spectacular display of fireworks at the Chula Vista Yacht Harbor. The show begins at 9 p.m. For more information, please call City of Chula Vista (619) 585-5682.

Lemon Festival: Free family festival celebrating Chula Vista's history as the lemon capital of the U.S., includes live entertainment on three stages, a classic car show, beer gardens, kids fun zone, food

and crafts. Fun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 17 on Third Avenue between E and G Streets. Sponsored by the Downtown Business Association (619) 422-1982.

Taste of Third Art Walk: Self-guided walking tour of downtown Chula Vista restaurants with food tasting, local artists and live music from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 18. Sponsored by the Downtown Business Association (619) 422-1982.

For more information about events taking place in Chula Vista throughout the year, please call the City's special events hotline at (619) 585-5682; or visit the "Calendar" page on the City's Web site at www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us. ■

Dog Days of Summer

As the warm weather approaches, pet companions need special attention. Keep your furry friends safe this summer with these reminders.

• **Keeping Cool:** Pets need lots of fresh water and at least one area in the yard with plenty of shade all day long.

• **Foxtails:** These barbed dried weeds penetrate the skin and can damage vital organs. Check your pet often, especially between the toes and in the ears.

• **Swimming Pools:** Prevent easy access to pools. Even good canine swimmers can drown if they are unable to get out. Just like kids, it's best to allow swimming only under supervision.



• **Heatstroke:** This medical emergency strikes quickly! Symptoms include heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid pulse and staggering gait. Never leave your pet in a car, even in the shade.

• **Fireworks:** Noisy fireworks on the 4th of July could panic your pet. Keep pets inside, cover windows and turn on a radio, TV or fan to help muffle the sounds.

The Chula Vista Animal Care Facility takes in hundreds of kittens during the spring and summer breeding seasons. Be a part of the solution by not adding to the County's pet overpopulation problem by spaying and neutering your animals. Call a veterinarian or ask the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility for a referral to a local vet participating in low-cost programs. Assistance is also available through the following organizations:

Pet Assistance, (619) 544-1222 or (760) 745-7986
Snap (Spay Neuter Action Project), (619) 525-3047
FCC (Feral Cat Coalition), (619) 497-1599



PHOTO BY MIKE ARMBRUST

Want to share your summer with a wonderful four-legged friend?

Visit some of Chula Vista Animal Care Facility's most adorable residents who are ready and waiting for a new home. Animals adopted by Chula Vista residents will receive a free one-year license, health exam and grooming. Adoption fees also include basic vaccinations. The facility is located at 130 Beyer Way and open Monday—Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For directions or other services provided, please call (619) 691-5123. ■

Chula Vista Spotlight

City Council
Stephen C. Padilla, Mayor
Patty Davis
John McCann
Jerry R. Rindone
Mary Salas
City Manager
David D. Rowlands, Jr.



The Chula Vista Spotlight newsletter is published five times per year and is distributed as a public service to residents and businesses by the City of Chula Vista. Copies are also available at various locations around the city. Send comments or inquiries to the Office of Communications, City of Chula Vista, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910. The city's Web page address is www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us.

Presorted Standard
US Postage
P A I D
Chula Vista, CA
Permit No. 327



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY-BASED INK

Spotlight

CITY OF CHULA VISTA

SUMMER 2003



PHOTOS BY MIKE ARMBRUST

New Shark & Ray Experience to Open July 26

Touch a shark. Pet a bat ray. Watch sharks and rays swimming underwater—without getting wet!

Discover these exciting activities at the new David A. Wergeland Shark & Ray Experience—opening to the public at the Chula Vista Nature Center on July 26.

This new state-of-the-art exhibit includes a 4,000-gallon "touch tank" with at least five species of sharks and rays, a 17,000-gallon "free-swimming tank" with underwater and overwater viewing areas of larger sharks and rays, and a variety of interactive displays ranging from shark teeth to defense mechanisms. The Shark & Ray Experience is more than four times as large as the former petting pool it is replacing.

Built at a cost exceeding \$1 million, major sponsors are F.L. Wergeland, Jr., MD; the State of California; the County of San Diego; and the City of Chula Vista.

Please see *Shark & Ray Experience*, inside

Program “Links” Children, Public Safety Workers

The scene is repeated at schools throughout the City most Wednesdays each school year. Shortly after lunch, a Sweetwater Authority truck, equipped with flashing lights and a two-way radio, joins police and sheriff’s vehicles, an ambulance, and several other service vehicles in a parade that ends on a school playground. Moments later, three or four hundred students receive introductions and training, then visit the vehicles and their drivers.

The purpose? To introduce children to helping hands. Each of the vehicles at the playground bears a large circular seal, where a small child’s hand joins the larger hand of an adult. “We teach the kids to look for the logo,” said Senior Volunteer Patrol Member Ruben Rains, who coordinates the Child Link Program. Children are told that if they’re afraid, lost, or in danger, they should “flag down” a participating vehicle. Its driver will contact the police, then stay

on the scene until an officer can take the child to safety.

Sue King often represents Sweetwater Authority at Child Link programs. “Sweetwater Authority will always protect the public water supply,” King said, “but our directors and employees believe that ‘excellent service’ extends to helping in our community.” ■

Shark & Ray Experience

continued from front page

In addition, don’t miss the opportunity to see the Nature Center’s two majestic golden eagles. These regal birds are residents at the new Eagle Mesa exhibit, which officially opened in May. Both birds have injuries that make

them unreleasable into the wild and are the only golden eagles on exhibit in the county.

To visit the Nature Center, park in the lot just west of the E Street exit off of I-5 and take the free shuttle to the center. The shuttle starts at 10 a.m. and makes a loop approximately every 15 minutes. Vehicle access to the site—

Stay Cool with Shade Tree Give-A-Way



Want to save money on your energy bill? Reduce air conditioning costs by planting shade trees to protect your house from the heat of the sun. The San Diego Regional Energy Office, in cooperation with the City of Chula Vista and People for Trees, is giving away over 8,000 shade trees to local residents and primary and secondary schools through December 2003. The purpose of the program is to reduce the community’s demand for energy. Shade trees cool homes, and cooler homes require less air conditioning. As a result, trees save energy! Trees also add character and appeal to neighborhoods, reduce storm run-off and improve local air quality. Ten to fifteen gallon-sized shade trees are available in more than 20 varieties. Please call (619) 222-TREE to sign up for the shade tree program. ■

located in the 316-acre Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge —is restricted.

The Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (619) 409-5900 or log-on the Web site at www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us. ■

Planning Our Bayfront

Two separate and distinct plans to develop property along Chula Vista’s bayfront are underway, and because the names are similar, many residents find it difficult to distinguish one from the other.

The Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan addresses the development and use of more than 300 acres of land owned by the Port of San Diego. The Port’s property stretches from Bayside Park to the Duke Energy Plant and beyond.

The Port envisions the creation of a world-class bayfront in Chula Vista that becomes a destination for local residents and tourists—a project that redefines the western part of the City. An internationally known consultant team is developing the master plan, and the process is expected to take about two years to complete. Since the Port property is considered public lands, the law prohibits housing



from being built on the site.

Public participation is an integral part of the Bayfront plan. Five public workshops will be held over the next year to give residents an opportunity to offer suggestions. “Our ears are wide open,” says consultant Randy Morton.

The Mid-Bayfront project is a proposal to develop approximately 100 acres of privately owned land north of the Port project. The location is in the redevelopment area along Lagoon Drive.

Originally, the Mid-Bayfront site consisted of 420 acres. In 1988, the landowner turned over more than 300 acres to create the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, which is now home to the Chula Vista Nature Center.

In May 2002, Pacifica Companies presented a proposal to develop the remaining 100 acres. Plans included preserving open space and building hotels, restaurants, recreations areas, and

a variety of housing types. In response to recommendations from the public, Pacifica decided to downsize its plan. The changes will be presented to the City this summer. ■

Demonstrating the Power of Hydrogen

A fuel cell bus that runs on hydrogen and has zero emissions is joining the fleet at Chula Vista Transit. The bus will be carrying passengers along an assigned route on city streets, and visitors from around the world are dropping in to see how it works. It’s part of an alternative fuel demonstration project approved by City Council.

An enormous portable hydrogen fueling station from Canada is the energy source for the special bus. Inside the 53-foot long trailer, hydrogen is separated from water, compressed and stored for future use. When the bus

needs fuel, it pulls up to the trailer and hydrogen is piped on board.

Here’s how the fuel cell process works: An electric current separates hydrogen from water. The hydrogen

atom splits, and as it passes through a special membrane, electrons are diverted to an electrical circuit where they provide power. The leftover hydrogen recombines with oxygen to produce water and heat—nonpolluting by-products. ■



Around town...

Planning & Building Permits On Hold July 11-21

In an effort to streamline the permit process and improve customer service, the City’s Planning and Building Departments are merging their front counters. Both counters at the Public Services Building will be closed for business July 11 through July 21 during remodeling. When finished, the combination counter will provide one-stop shopping for permits. The new arrangements will include a dedicated business license station and a staffed information kiosk in the lobby. While the counters are closed, phone calls for zoning information or code violation complaints will be recorded and reviewed daily. Staff can respond to emergency calls only.

City’s Crime is Down—Again

While the county’s overall crime rate inched up by one percent in 2002, crime in Chula Vista dropped a significant seven percent. Chula Vista’s crime rate has been on the decline over the past ten years, despite the City’s expanding population. Chula Vista Police Chief Rick Emerson credits problem-solving techniques and crime prevention strategies for the reduction in crime. “Our philosophy has been effective in stopping crime before it occurs,” says Emerson.



Tour d’ Elegance Gala to Benefit Local Kids

Preview this summer’s Sycuan Casino & Resort Tour d’ Elegance at a VIP grand opening gala that will be the county’s most talked about event of the summer. The walking tour features five newly built spectacular custom homes in The Gates at The Woods. The event opens to the public July 11, but the fun begins the night before, with a casino night fundraiser. Tickets are \$75 each, and the proceeds benefit the EastLake Educational Foundation, BIA Cares for Kids, and the Chula Vista Boys & Girls Club. Call (858) 450-1221 to purchase tickets. The Tour runs from July 11 through August 10. For details, visit www.tourluxuryhomes.com or call (619) 835-9003.

Have Patience... Will Travel

Two important road projects designed to improve the flow of traffic may inconvenience motorists over the next few months. On the north side of Palomar Avenue, between I-5 and Industrial Boulevard, road crews are adding auxiliary lanes along the freeway, slated to be finished in March 2004,

includes sound walls and a raised median. Crews will be working at night.

This fall, Caltrans and the City begin work on a \$21 million project to widen the bridge at I-805 and Olympic Parkway. Plans also call for building sound walls and adding auxiliary lanes along the freeway between Olympic and Main. ■